

A NEW SPECIES OF VERNONIA FROM MEXICO

H. Robinson and C. F. Reed

Specimens collected in 1966 in an isolated region of southern Sonora in Western Mexico include the following undescribed species of Vernonia.

Vernonia barclayi H. Robinson & C.F. Reed, n. sp.

Plantae frutescentes usque ad 2 m altae pauca ramosae. Caules teretes striati albo-tomentosi. Internodia 0.5-3.0 cm longa. Folia alterna, petiolis 2-3 mm longis, laminis oblongo-ellipticis 4-10 cm longis 15-35 mm latis integris base rotundatis ad apicem breviter acutis supra puberulis subtus breviter villosis. Inflorescentiae late corymbosae plerumque 15-25 capitata; pedunculis pauca ramosis; pedicellis superne crassioribus cinereo-puberulis; bracteis subinvolucratis paucis minutis subulatis 2-3 mm longis. Capitula turbinata 18-20 mm alta ca. 12 mm lata; squamae involucri ca. 60 viridulae 5-6-seriatae subulatae 2.5-6.0 mm longae 1.0-1.3 mm latae as apicem breviter acutae extus et margine albo-pilosae; receptacula plana glabra. Flores ca. 60; corollae lavenderae ca. 9 mm longae, tubis angustis ca. 5 mm longis, faucis infundibularibus ca. 1.5 mm longis, lobis ca. 3.0 mm longis 0.4-0.5 mm latis extus glabris; thecae antherarum ca. 3 mm longae, appendicibus subulatis ca. 1 mm longis 0.25 mm latis; achaenia 3.5 mm longa parum breviter setifera; carpophodia late obturaculiformia, cellulis minutis multiseriatis; pappus biseriatus, squamis exterioribus ca. 25 oblongo-ellipticis ca. 0.5 mm longis laciniatis, setis interioribus ca. 40 plerumque 6-7 mm longis scabrellis ad apicem vix vel non clavatis, cellulis apicalibus argute acutis. Grana pollinis ca. 40 μ diam.

Type: MEXICO: Sonora: Sierra Tecuari; slopes above Rancho El Banco along road between Alamos, Sonora and Mil Pilas, Chihuahua. Locally abundant along moist ravines; oak zone. Shrub to 2 m tall; flowers lavender-pink. May 20, 1966. A.S.Barclay & J.Arguelles 2018 (Holotype US; isotype, Herb. REED).

The species is rather isolated in the northwestern part of Mexico where few members of the genus are reported. Only the very dissimilar V. palmeri Rose seems to have been reported from Sonora previously. The new species is notable for the many flowers per head, and V. schaffneri A.Gray and V. greggii A.Gray having nearly as many flowers lack the dense pubescence of the leaves and stems. Other species such as V. corymbiformis DC and V. dictyophlebia Gleason have various additional differences such as less pubescent or blunter inner phyllaries or longer more slender pedicels.